Transport Buses.

195. *MR. V. MADHAVAN : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of leakage of water in Transport buses at the time of rains ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes. Adequate measures commensurate with the availability of materials are being taken to prevent leakage.

Schedule of rates of charges in the State Transport Department.

196. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any schedule of rates of charges published by the State Transport Department for the transport of parcels and goods; if so, what it is ;

(*b*) whether any rate of charges is also fixed for loading and unloading parcels and goods ; if so, what it is ; and

(*c*) whether the loading and unloading charges are realised by the department along with the charges for the transport of parcel and goods?

MR. E. G. SALTER : (*a*) Yes. A *copy of the schedule is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes, 4 cash per 28 lbs. per one loading or unloading subject to a minimum of 8 cash.

(*c*) No. The charges are paid to the porters direct or through Parcel Agents.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Sir, with reference to answer to part (c) will the Director be pleased to examine the receipts issued. There is a column in the receipts. Will the Director examine it in the face of this answer?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Sir, the parcel agents are authorised to employ porters for the purpose of loading and unloading for reasons which must be obvious. It is part of their authority that they should collect the charges to be paid to these porters.

Conductors in the State Transport Department.

197. *MR. D. THOMAS (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavancode*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total number of conductors in the State Transport Department and the number of Latin Catholics among them ;

(*b*) the minimum qualification that is being prescribed for the post of conductors ;

(*c*) the date on which recruitment to the post of conductors was done last and the number recruited ; and

(*d*) the number of applications received from Latin Catholics and the number selected from that community ?

*Vide Appendix 1.

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MR. E. G. SALTER : (*a*) 317.

(*b*) E. S. L. C.

(*c*) 14th, 16th and 19th Medom 1120. Total number recruited 63.

(*d*) Recruitment of staff in the department is not guided by communal considerations.

MR. D. THOMAS : Sir, with reference to part (*b*), the answer is given as E. S. L. C. May I know whether a pass is insisted on ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, it is insisted on in respect of all candidates, other than those of backward communities.

Constructing waiting shed and garage at Tiruvalla.

198. *MR. K. A. MATHEW : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the extreme inconvenience and hardship experienced by the travelling public owing to lack of waiting room and garage at the Tiruvalla Transport bus stand ;

(*b*) when the waiting shed and garage tumbled down ; and

(*c*) why no permanent structure has so far been put up ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1-2-1120.

(*c*) Negotiations for the acquisition of a suitable site are proceeding.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Sir, may I ask whether the Government realise that it is an year now since there is no garage and waiting shed in Tiruvalla.

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes, Sir, we are aware of it and, as stated in this House a short time ago, the Transport Department is experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining a suitable site.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Will the Government assure that they will take the earliest opportunity for constructing these ?

MR. E. G. SALTER : I have no hesitation in assuring the honourable member that every possible effort is being made.

Timings of the Transport buses.

199. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state *re* the State Transport Department :

(*a*) the officer responsible at the Trivandrum Central Station motor stand to operate the buses on the various routes that start from there ;

(*b*) whether he is bound to put the buses allotted to each route as per schedule and timings fixed by the department or whether he has the discretion to change the number of buses fixed and the timings from day to day.

(*c*) whether the Director of State Transport has enquired whether such changes are effected and the reasons for it ;

(*d*) the number of buses allotted to run daily on Trivandrum Nedumangad route ;

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